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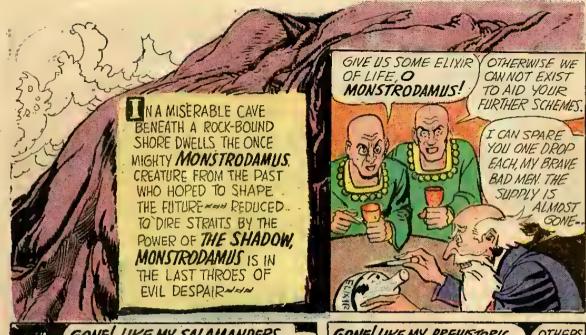
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REALIZES THAT
UPON THE VERYROCK ABOVE HIM
PERCHES A
SHADOW-BIRD,
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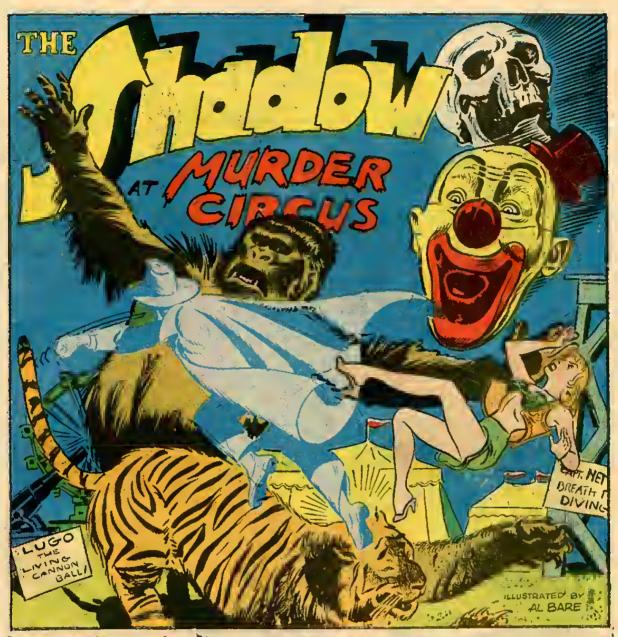


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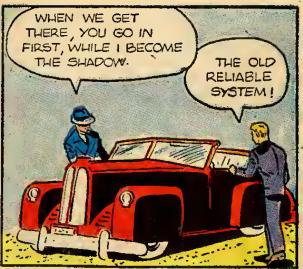




















































































































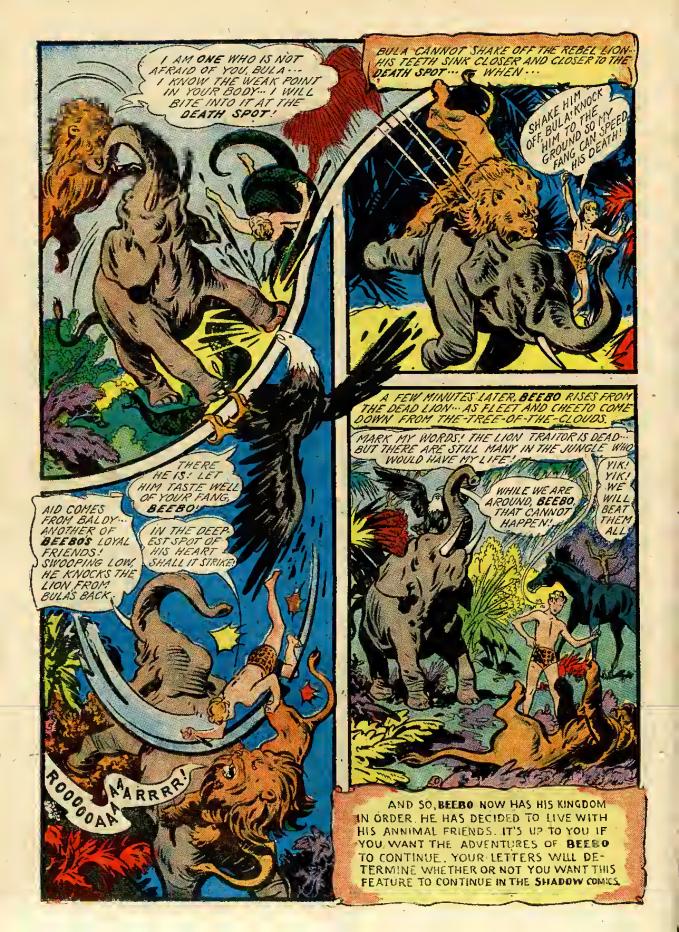


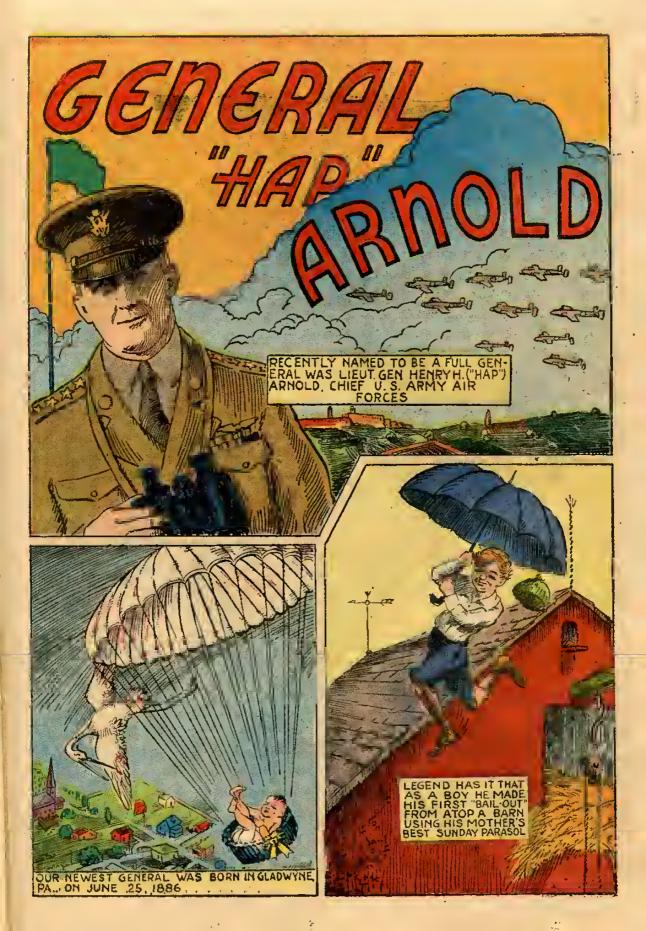




















ERY little equipment is necessary for the taking of fingerprints. There are a number of compact outfits available for those who wish to get an excellent equipment for laboratory work. Others who do not wish to invest much money in this work can have their own outfit at very little expense.

The inking outfit comprises a "roller" and a "stone," or ink plate. The roller should be one of rubber composition of smooth texture. Best suited for this work is the common printer's roller such as is used for taking proofs. The size can vary with the needs of the individual, but for good work it should be several inches wide and about an inch in diameter. A roller this wide gives better spread than smaller ones, and therefore requires less rolling of the ink.

Printer's ink is excellent for the work. It dries quickly and therefore lessens the possibility of smudging the prints. Get the ink in a tube, and be sure to keep the cap on when not in use. This will keep the ink in the best of condition.

The "stone," or ink plate, can be a flat piece of any nonporous, hard-surfaced material. Glass, marble, zinc, copper—any of these will do. Spread a bit of ink on the roller, and by rolling from one end of your "stone" to the other, then across, crisscross, and in all directions, get a smooth, even layer of ink. This could be used for fingerprinting, but to be doubly sure of good prints, have a second ink plate ready. After you have your ink well spread on the first one, transfer the roller to your second plate and cover the entire surface.

This extra precaution assures perfect and even spread of ink. Any small impurities or uneven spots resulting from the original application of ink will not be so readily transferred to the second surface. You will also find it easier to control your ink thickness by having two plates.

The second stone, the one to be used for inking the fingers, instead of being merely a flat piece of glass or metal, should be mounted on a block of wood or a solid frame in such a manner that the sides are sloping inward. This

indentation will allow the fingers not being inked to drop beneath the plate and not interfere with getting a good inking of the finger being applied. A flat plate placed securely on the edge of a table with an "overhang" top will serve this purpose.

White cards, or sheets of paper with a good hard surface, are used for taking the impressions. Cards eight inches square are considered the standard size, and allow for full impression of the fingers of each hand taken at one time, as well as for prints of each individual finger. These are properly designated by hands and fingers in their apportioned squares.

A clasp or band of some sort, arranged to hold down the card when impressions are being taken, helps keep the prints sharp and even, and also avoids all possibility of having the card slip while impressions are taken.

Cleanliness, of course, is essential. Before the prints are taken, hands should be washed with soap and brush, and in running water to make sure they are rinsed clean of all soap. Wiping the fingers with a cloth dipped in benzine or ether will remove traces of grease, perspiration, or water, and avoid "spots" appearing in the prints, for printer's ink does not catch on greasy or wet portions of the skin. Benzine can also be used to clean the ink off roller and stones, and a little lubricating oil rubbed on the roller will keep that in good condition when not in use. Be sure to wipe off the oil thoroughly before using the roller again.

Assuming now that you have your second stone inked with a smooth, even layer, not too thick; that you have your card firmly in place, you are ready for taking the prints. The simplest form of prints are the "plain" impressions.

We have shown you the equipment necessary for taking prints and the two methods used—plain and rolled impressions—in making the impressions for records. These two steps are parts of the one angle of the science of finger prints—the angle of identification. The method of finding the prints left on the scene of the crime, of devcloping these prints that they are able to be reproduced for study, belongs to the other part of this study, and will be given its due share of attention.

Anyone who has even the slightest knowledge of finger prints knows that the basis of

identification by this system is the fact that no two prints are alike. It is by comparison, by checking one print against another, that identification is established. Now, just how is this done?

On file at the Bureau of Investigation in Washington are about three million prints, with more being added every day. Suppose that your local police were to find prints left at the scene of a crime, and wished to check up on the culprit, how would they learn the identity of the criminal?

If the police department in your home town has a file of prints, they would check on those first. If they could not find the print in their own file, it would be sent to the State offices, then to Washington—or else directly to Washington. Yet in each case, the print would have to be compared with thousands upon thousands of prints, and since one person's finger print seems so much like another's, how would it be possible to determine the difference in any reasonable time?

The man being fingerprinted should relax his fingers and make no attempt to press or move by his own exertion, letting the operator have full control. Take each of the fingers individually, and, in turn, place them on the ink plate. Be sure that you impress the bulbs of the fingers only, keeping the plane of the fingernail parallel with the plane of the plate. Do not attempt to press too hard, or you will flatten the bulb and make a poor print.

When you have inked four fingers of one hand, place them close together to fit in the space on the card. Keep the hand limp and flat, not bowed or arched, and press each finger lightly at the base of the nail. Below the print of each hand place the impression of the thumb.

In inking the fingers, select an unused portion of the ink plate each time. If no unused portions are left, reroll the plate with the ink roller, thus securing another even layer of ink. The quantity of ink needed is very small. Too much ink will give blurred impressions. A few practice sessions will show you this trick to perfection.

In order to gain the best result in inking and taking the prints, your ink plate should be high enough to allow the arm of the man being printed to be on a horizontal plane. The same is true of the position of the card on which prints are to be taken.



































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